

The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1906.

How to Call The Times-Dispatch.

Persons wishing to communicate with

The Times-Dispatch by telephone will ask

central for "4041," and on being answered

from the office switchboard will indicate

the department or person with whom they

wish to speak.

When calling between 6 A. M. and 9

A. M. call to central office direct for

4041 composing room, 4042 business office,

4043 for mailing and press rooms.

There never was a bad man that

had ability for good service.

—Burke.

Needed—A Building Inspector.

A most important ordinance providing

for the creation of a building inspector

for Richmond is pending before the Fi-

nancial Committee. At present Richmond

has no means of protecting itself from

the construction of unsanitary, unsafe

and unsightly buildings. The need for a

building inspector has long been felt,

and as long as two years ago strenuous

efforts were made to create this office.

It has been urged that Richmond has not

at present a sufficiently extended build-

ing code. Certainly our building ordi-

nances are far inferior to those of other

cities, such as Cleveland, for example,

but our code, even at its worst, is better

than nothing, and it cannot be enforced

at all without an officer who is charged

with the duty and given the authority

of carrying out its provisions. There will

be time enough to perfect a code when

the office has been created, but until

then there should be no delay in adopt-

ing the pending ordinance.

It is utterly indefensible to allow houses

to be built that are a menace to the com-

munity, when, by a little foresight, the

same money might be expended for san-

itary, beautiful and safe buildings. Rich-

mond has gotten for itself the prospect

of a new health board; we will soon

have pure and sparkling water; the re-

habilitation of our gas works is under

serious discussion, and these advances

inevitably demand the creation of an

inspector or a bureau capable of protect-

ing the character and healthfulness of

the buildings to be erected in the future.

The Bottom of Prosperity.

If any man is in doubt as to the fun-

damental cause of prosperity, which by a

coincidence set in soon after the Republi-

can party came into power in 1896, let

him study an article recently appearing

in the Quarterly Journal of Economics on

the crops. It is pointed out that in 1892

there was a tremendous fall in the price

of agricultural products which was fol-

lowed in 1893 by a panic, according to our

contemporary figures.

Four crops—corn, wheat, oats and cot-

ton—were worth \$1,500,000,000 in 1901,

and only \$1,435,000,000 in 1892. Does any

one need a more striking explanation of

the prosperity of 1892 and the depression

of 1893? Then followed four years, 1894-6,

in not one of which did the value of the

four crops reach nearly to \$1,300,000,000.

The value of the crops for 1893 to 1897,

was \$5,000,000,000; from 1897 to 1902, \$5,110,

\$66,124; from 1902 to 1906, \$5,419,000,000.

There is another item, however, to be

taken into account. In 1893, the gold

product of the United States was \$1,300,323

ounces, valued at \$35,000,000; in 1901 it

was 3,892,450 ounces, valued at \$50,400,000.

From 1893 to 1896 inclusive, the gold pro-

duct was valued at \$175,153,600; from 1897

to 1900, inclusive, \$272,650,400; from 1901 to

1906 inclusive, it was \$312,721,100.

It will be seen from these figures that

for the four years ended with 1904, the

value of crops and the value of the gold

product was nearly double that of the

four years ended with 1894.

Of course, prosperity is really due to

the tariff, for the Republicans say so,

but even Republicans must confess that

the doubling in value of the farm pro-

ducts and the gold products has had

something to do with it—and these articles

are not protected by the tariff.

Tillman and the Dyspnoea on

Trial.

South Carolina has just opened what

bids fair to be a memorable campaign

in the political history of that State. The

fight will be in a primary election to be

held on August 15th. Candidates are to

be nominated for positions ranging from

the lowest in the county all the way up

to United States Senator.

There are eight candidates for govern-

or, two candidates for lieutenant-govern-

or, four for secretary of State, three

for attorney-general, two for comptroller,

one for State treasurer, two for adjutant

general, one for superintendent of educa-

tion, five for railroad commissioner, and

two for the United States Senate.

Congressmen Legare, Ellerbe, and

Lever have no opposition. Messrs. Finley,

Patterson, Aiken and Johnson will have

opposition.

The great issue of the campaign will

be the dyspnoea. The system will be

put on trial before the people and they

will determine whether it shall live or

die. A bitter fight will be made upon

it by a large body of respectable citizens,

who are disgusted with it, and that able

and fearless contemporary, the Columbia

State, is leading the fight. But the dys-

pnoea is a powerful political machine,

and it will be hard to overthrow it.

The contest will be greatly enlivened by

the candidacy of Mr. W. W. Lumpkin, of

Columbia, against Senator Tillman. Mr.

Lumpkin, one of the State papers

says:

"Mr. Lumpkin is a forcible speaker and

is a man of the people. He will make a

good campaign and will probably sur-

prise many with his vote. He is well

known in every county in the State, for

he has been a traveling man for several

years, now being commercial agent of

the Georgia Railway Company, and his

irreproachable and lovable character and

his knowledge of men and affairs will

make him a candidate not to be despised.

Mr. Lumpkin came to this State from

Georgia about twelve years ago, but his

people have been Carolinians for genera-

tions. He is a member of the family

which has given to Georgia one Govern-

or, a chief justice and a member of the

Supreme Court."

Senator Tillman will be compelled,

therefore, to fight not only for the dis-

pensary system, of which he is the

parent, but also for his own seat in the

Senate. The whole country will watch

the progress of the campaign with keen in-

terest.

Panama and the Tariff.

It was recently noted in the Associated

Press dispatches from Washington that

by a decisive vote the House refused

to sanction the purchase of materials

in the markets of the world for the

Panama Canal, the general position of

the Republicans being that as the canal

was to be built by American taxes, the

American workmen and the American

manufacturers should have the advan-

tage.

Good for the protectionists! They are

at least considerate. They have con-

fessed that it will cost more to purchase

the goods in the American market, which

is protected by a tariff tax. But the

tax-payers at large must be made to pay

the higher price because it is in the in-

terest of the manufacturers that they

shall do so. The whole people are taxed

for the benefit of those who sell the

supplies. That is the protection princi-

ple, and the Republicans are consistent

in enforcing it.

But the people are getting an object

lesson. This Panama affair has opened

their eyes to the fact that the tariff is

a tax; that it is imposed in order to

give the American manufacturer an op-

portunity to increase the price of his

goods, and that the consumer bears the

burden.

Tariff reform is still a live issue in the

United States. The Democrats will not

fall to employ the Panama incident in

the fall campaign.

The Cause of Divorce.

Statistics showing the course of divorce

suits and the circumstances under which

such marriages were contracted would

make an instructive study. The proba-

bility is that they would show that they

were, in the majority of cases, hasty,

ill-considered marriages, if not runaway

matches.

Prudent men are very careful how they

enter into binding contracts of a busi-

ness nature. They consider all the con-

tingencies and make time for reflection,

and do not put their seal upon the con-

tract until they are satisfied that it is

for their welfare. Yet, men and women

who ought to know better will rush

impulsively into matrimony, the most

serious and binding of all contracts,

whose obligations are for life. Prudent

men are very careful how they form

partnerships for business purposes, part-

nerships which may be dissolved at

pleasure; yet many men and women will

rush inconsiderately and recklessly into

a life-long partnership with each other,

a partnership which brings them to-

gether into the closest of all relation-

ships.

Is it strange that so many marriages

thus contracted should be failures?

The wonder is that they are not all

failures. The chances of success are

certainly against them.

Premature Booms.

The Charlotte Observer reproduces in its

editorial columns some comments of the

Times-Dispatch on the folly of committing

the party to Cleveland, Bryan or any

other candidate two years in advance of

the next national campaign and adds:

"All of which is eminently sensible, but

the saying of it will prove ineffective.

The Democratic party has a case of

hysterics and the voice of reason is

drowned in the tumult. Two years be-

fore the time for the nominating conven-

tion, State conventions are hastening to

nominate a candidate, the only rivalry

being as to which can speak first. The

thing is without precedent. There is no

forecasting the developments of two

years, and that which it seems to

enthusiastic gentlemen to be so wise and

essential to do now, may be seen in

June, 1906, to have been the limit of un-

wisdom. This is said in no expectative

thing, but it will carry so much as a

feather's weight, but merely to make

a record."

The Observer is too modest. Its ad-

vice always carries weight, for our con-

temporaries are sensible and honest. But

whether or not the advice be heeded, it

is none the less the duty of conservative

newspapers to speak out and warn the

party against committing a blunder

which may cost it a victory in 1908.

The South's Progress.

The census report makes a great show-

ing for the State of Georgia. Between

1900 and 1905 the capital invested in

manufacturing establishments increased

from \$79,300,310 to \$135,211,561, a gain of

over 70 per cent. There was a gain in

the number of wage-earners of 11.3 per

cent, and in wages of 37.2 per cent. The

value of factory products, including cus-

tom work and repairing, was \$34,632,938

in 1900 and \$101,000,416 in 1905, a gain

of 68 per cent.

This is a fair sample of the progress

and prosperity of the South at large. It

is rapidly becoming one of the wealth-

iest and most prosperous of all sections

of the country, and the time is not dis-

tant when its influence will assert itself

in the politics of the nation. The South

is no longer a weakling. It is a giant,

and its power must be reckoned with.

The resignation of Dr. William T.

Harris as United States Commissioner of

Education, will be universally regretted.

He has filled the place with honor to him-

self and with advantage to the great

cause of popular education.

What's in a name? Instead of dramatiz-

ing "The Jungle," why not just go ahead

and revive "A Texas Steer?"